



Shepton Mallet Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Including the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1948

Shepton Mallet Rural District Council

CHAIRMAN OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE :

CHARLES NEALE, Esq.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART-TIME) :

DR. T. E. COULSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

HEALTH VISITORS :

MISS C. J. WOOD, CANNARD'S GRAVE, SHEPTON MALLET.

MISS I. M. ABBOTT, HIGH STREET, GLASTONBURY.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR :

A. E. T. NETTING, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J. BOARD, CERT.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR :

F. C. POWELL, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E.J. BOARD.

CERT. MEAT & OTHER FOODS.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT :

MRS. M. Y. THOMAS.

WINCANTON,
SOMERSET.

June, 1949.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHEPTON MALLET.

LADY SHEELAH GREENWAY AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1948.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	....	....	....	47,784
Population (1948)	....	....	....	10,760
Number of Inhabited Houses (1947)	....	....	....	3,057
Rateable Value	...	....	....	£43,822
Produce of a Penny Rate (estimated)	....	....	....	£176

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS :—		Males.	Females.
Total	....	102	99
Legitimate	....	92	96
Illegitimate	....	10	3

Birth Rate : 17.9 per 1,000.

STILLBIRTHS :—

Total	....	3	4
Legitimate	....	2	4
Illegitimate	....	1	0

Birth Rate : 0.42 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Deaths from all causes :	119	49	70	Death Rate 10.8 per 1,000.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

(a) From Sepsis	....	....	....	0
(b) From other causes	....	....	....	1

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age :—

		Males.	Females.
Total	....	4	3
Legitimate	....	4	3
Illegitimate	....	0	0

Deaths of Infants under One Week	....	....	3
„ „ „ from One to Four Weeks (inclusive)	....	....	1
„ „ „ from One to Six Months	....	....	3
„ „ „ from Six to Twelve Months	....	....	0

Total

7

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	....	....	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	....	....	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years)	....	....	1

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 119, compared with 159 in 1947.

The chief causes of Death were :—

Heart Disease and Diseases of the Circulatory System	....	38
Cancer	....	14
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	....	8
Old Age	....	16

In all “Causes of Death” :—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were	....	20
„ „ „ „ „ 81 and 85 „	....	14
„ „ „ „ „ 86 and 90 „	....	9
And dying above the age of 90	....	3

A total of 46 or 38.65 per cent. of the total Deaths.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	0	0
Scarlet Fever	7	7	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	1	4
Whooping Cough	11	0	0
Measles	57	0	0
Acute Polio-encephalitis	2	1	0
Tuberculosis :—			
(a) Respiratory	9	0	6
(b) Non-Respiratory	4	0	0
	—	—	—
	97	11	10
	—	—	—

The Notification of Infectious Diseases in the District by Medical Practitioners was satisfactory except in the cases of Pneumonia.

School Closed owing to prevalence of Infectious Disease :—Binegar, in June, 1948, for Measles.

4.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

No Cases Notified.

5.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

Measles was somewhat less in evidence throughout the District. The type of the disease was mild and there were no deaths.

Pneumonia caused 4 deaths.

6.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

A.—PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME :—

- (1) General :—There are 9 nurses in the District engaged in general district work, who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole District.
- (2) For Infectious Diseases :—Some of the cases of Infectious Disease were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the District.

B.—MIDWIVES.

There are 9 Certified Midwives practising in the District.

C.—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

None in the District.

D.—HOSPITALS SITUATED IN THE DISTRICT.

None.

The following cases were admitted to the Shepton Mallet Joint Isolation Hospital from the District during the year :—

	Number Admitted.	Number Died.
Scarlet Fever	7	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	2	0
Dermatitis	1	0
Tonsillitis (Streptococcal)	1	0
Mumps and Pneumonia	1	0
Acute Polioencephalitis	1	0
	—	—
	13	0
	—	—

E.—INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN.

None.

F.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (1) For Infectious Cases.—A Motor Ambulance kept at the Joint Isolation Hospital, Shepton Mallet, is used in the District for the collection and removal of infectious cases.
- (2) For Non-infectious Cases and Accidents.—The Motor Ambulance provided by The Shepton Mallet Urban District Council, and kept at The Wells Road Garage (Tel. 126), is used when necessary.

There have been a considerable number of changes in the Nursing, Hospital, and other Health Services due to the passing of the National Health Service Act on July 5th, 1948. Amongst them are the following :—

- A. (1). Section 25 makes it the duty of the Local Health Authority (The County Council) to provide Nurses for persons who require nursing in their own homes.
- B. Section 23 makes it the duty of the Local Health Authority to make arrangements to employ a sufficient number of certified Midwives available in the Area.
- F. (1) & (2).—Section 27 makes it the duty of the Local Health Authority to provide and administer Ambulance Services or alternatively to make arrangements with Voluntary Organisations for the provision by them of such Ambulances.

G.—GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

Evacuated Children in the Shepton Mallet Rural District :—
January, 1948 :—2 Unaccompanied Children, billeted.
December 31st, 1948 :—None.

H.—SCABIES.

No cases of Scabies have been brought to my notice.

7.—LABORATORY WORK.

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this Laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at the District Hospital, Shepton Mallet, and is supplied free on demand to Practitioners practising in the District.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

I.—WATER.

Bacteriological examination of water supplies throughout the year have been carried out by the arrangement with the County Laboratory.

On the whole, as far as existing commitments were concerned, the amount of water proved to be sufficient, there being no periods of serious drought, although, of course, there were intermittent shortages in various parts of the district due to leakages on particular parts of the system during comparatively dry periods.

Notwithstanding the maintenance of a fair supply to existing connections, however, applications for laid on supplies to domestic premises in Croscombe and to cattle drinking troughs throughout the district have had to be refused in order that the already heavily burdened system may not be further taxed.

Works for the collection of additional water from springs in the Farncombe Valley were completed in the early part of the year. Extraction of the water from the bore hole by siphon proved satisfactory and a higher level has been maintained in the Prestleigh Reservoir thereby considerably improving the supply position in some of the southern parishes.

Towards the end of the year the laying of new 3 in. and 4 in. distribution water mains throughout the areas of West Bradley and Hornblotton was completed. These works have replaced the old worn out mains in West Bradley area and a considerable increase in pressure to all parts of the system has been effected; whilst for the first time the Council's water has been conveyed to the Hornblotton area where previously the private supply of the Thring Estate was the only one available.

The Council entered into a contract for extending the mains supply to Snagg Cottages, Ditchat, but the execution of this work is delayed—probably until the second half of 1949, because of the delay in the delivery of the necessary galvanised water tubing.

Detailed results of bacteriological examinations carried out during the year are as follows :—

(a) PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES.

1.—CHLORINATED SUPPLIES.

Number of samples taken	....	....	....	11
Satisfactory	....	....	....	9
Not quite satisfactory	....	....	....	1
Unsatisfactory	....	....	....	1

2.—UNTREATED SUPPLIES.

Number of samples taken	....	....	....	7
Satisfactory	....	....	....	2
Not quite satisfactory	....	....	....	1
Unsatisfactory	....	....	....	4

(b) PRIVATE PIPED WATER SUPPLIES USED BY PUBLIC (UNTREATED).

Three samples were taken all three of which proved to be unsatisfactory.

(c) OTHER PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (INDIVIDUAL PREMISES, FARMS, ETC.):

Number of samples taken	....	....	....	24
Satisfactory	....	....	....	6
Not quite satisfactory	....	....	....	4
Unsatisfactory	....	....	....	14

No chemical analyses were taken.

There is no liability to plumbo-solvent action from any of the water supplies.

Appropriate action was taken by the Council in all cases of unsatisfactory results.

No action was taken by the Council in relation to the public supplies which were not satisfactory, as none of them was consistently unsatisfactory.

Action taken following unsatisfactory samples from private supplies resulted in improvements either being carried out or pending in three instances.

Available figures in relation to the supply of water in the various parishes are :—

Parishes.	No. of houses.	No. having piped water supply into or on to the houses.	No. of houses supplied by stand-pipe.	No. supplied by well or other supplies.
Ashwick	306	235	51	21
Batcombe	105	43	20	42
Binegar	87	58	27	2
Bradley, West	85	66	12	7
Cranmore	121	60	39	22
Crocombe	170	53	96	21
Ditchheat	190	162	24	4
Doulting	151	100	29	22
Downhead	40	4	13	23
Emborough	56	48	6	2
Evercreech	404	332	46	25
Holcombe	171	136	31	4
Lamyatt	38	27	1	10
Lydford	120	9	12	99
Milton Clevedon	24	12	9	3
Pennard, East	117	53	15	49
Pilton	244	195	25	24
Pylle	54	12	5	37
Stoke Lane	195	149	35	11
Stratton-on-the-Fosse	419	349	59	11
	3097	2103	555	439

The outline scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineer's, Messrs. W. Herbert Bateman and Partners, for the collection and utilisation of sources of water at St. Dunstan's Well and Ashwick Grove, and for the distribution of such water to certain parts of the Shepton Mallet R.D.C., including the provision for a bulk supply to the Rural District of Frome, has been the subject of application to the Ministry of Health for sanction to loan and a public local inquiry is shortly expected.

2.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

During the year, in order to obviate the nuisance arising from sewage passing through an open ditch at Ditchheat, the piping of this ditch with 12 in. internal diameter concrete tubes was carried out.

In connection with the proposal that the Norton-Radstock U.D.C. should receive into their Radstock system the sewage from Chilcompton, no agreement has been reached, and the Council have decided to proceed with a scheme for the future sewerage of this district on proposals outlined by their Consulting Engineers, Messrs. W. Herbert Bateman and Partners, for a sewerage system and works within the parish of Stratton-on-the-Fosse.

The new houses being erected in various parishes throughout the district under the post-war housing programme gives urgent need for the sewerage of the parishes of Stoke Lane, Gurney Slade, Croscombe, and Stratton-on-the-Fosse, and the Council commenced a survey in these parishes with a view to the early preparation of schemes for submission to the Ministry of Health. The Consulting Engineers, Messrs. W. Herbert Bateman and Partners, have been instructed to prepare the schemes.

With regard to the village of Croscombe, the Council have decided to approach the Wells R.D.C. with a view to considering the possibility of a joint sewerage scheme serving Croscombe and the parish of Dinder in the latter authority's district.

3.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year 26 privies or pail closets were replaced by W.C.'s or Earth Closets.

4.—HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

The Council's Karrier CK3 lorry with a crew of driver and two loaders, has continued to give satisfactory service. This is the second year that the whole district has been served and household refuse has been removed by direct labour. During the year the lorry has travelled 10,171 miles collecting approximately 1,600 tons of rubbish.

The following schedule was observed :—

Stratton-on-the-Fosse,	.....	.....	.....	Weekly Collection.
Holcombe				
Ashwick, Binegar, Croscombe, Doultong Ditchheat, Emborough,				Fortnightly Collection.
Evercreech, Pilton, Stoke St. Michael.				
Batcombe, Bradley West, Cranmore, Downhead, Lamyatt, Lydford,				Four Weekly Collection.
Milton Clevedon, Pennard East, Pylle				

Every effort has been made to encourage householders to provide proper dustbins, including, where it was found of assistance, the supply of bins from the Council's stock at cost price.

Disposal of the refuse has continued at the two tips, viz : Moorewood and Chelynch, and a reasonable measure of control has been exercised over each. It will soon be necessary to seek another tipping site to serve the southern part of the district in place of Chelynch tip, which is rapidly filling.

5.—SALVAGE.

The salvage collection scheme proceeded as in previous years. A distinct reduction in amount of ferrous and non-ferrous metals recovered was noted, and this, no doubt, resulted from the canvassing carried out by outside metal dealers, as metal is still in great demand.

Paper is in the greatest demand and a waste paper drive was undertaken as part of a National Competition, resulting in a 20 per cent. increase on the previous year's return. This increase, giving a rise of approximately £62 in sales, together with the doubling of returns for bottles and jars, has resulted in a further rise in total sales value.

WEIGHTS AND SALES FROM 1/1/48 to 31/12/48.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Paper	58	12	3	(49	14	0)	440	19	7	(378	3	6)
Ferrous Metals	34	13	3	(68	10	0)	54	2	5	(94	19	11)
Non-Ferrous Metals		3	0	(	5	1)	3	19	11	(8	7	2)
Rags	4	9	3	(6	6	3)	86	5	3	(93	13	11)
Bottles and Jars	7	13	0	(3	8	2)	98	2	11	(86	11	7)
Rubber	9	0	1	(8	14	2)	9	5	11	(10	18	6)
Bones	2	8	0	(2	14	1)	15	0	0	(16	9	0)
							2	16	0	(5	18	3)
	117	0	2	(139	13	1)	£710	12	0	(£695	1	10)

The figures in brackets are those for the year 1947.

6.—SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following report has been furnished to me by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

Inspections necessitated by the Control of Civil Building, the increasing amount of routine visits, and meat inspection at Pylle Slaughterhouse accounted for all of the Sanitary Inspectors' time. No further progress was made with the Rural Housing Survey, although, with the increase in the potential of house building and repairs, the figures which would become available from such survey will become increasingly important.

(a) VISITS.

The following visits were made during the year :—

Dwellingshouses	....	....	....	439
Housing Act—Overcrowding	....	....	....	1
Infectious Disease	....	....	....	26
Factories	....	....	....	14
Bakehouses	....	....	....	3
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	....	86
Food Premises	....	....	....	75
Meat Inspections and Slaughterhouse	....	....	....	346
Knacker's Yard	....	....	....	19
Council Houses	....	....	....	320
Rats and Mice suppression	....	....	....	304
Refuse collection	....	....	....	77
Refuse Tips	....	....	....	33
Drainage	....	....	....	57
Water Supplies	....	....	....	35
Verminous Premises	....	....	....	1
Control of Civil Building	....	....	....	142
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	228
Camping Sites and Moveable Dwelling	....	....	....	1
Outworkers	....	....	....	1

(b) NOTICES :

		Informal.	Statutory.
Served	....	93	2
Complied with	....	132	3
Outstanding	....	36	1

During the year some slight improvement in the building labour position and the supply of building materials was noted, but requirements for repair were kept as far as possible to works of a really urgent nature in order that the building of new houses should not be unreasonably hindered, there being very few builders in the district, most of whom are engaged in that work.

(c) LIST OF WORKS EXECUTED AS A RESULT OF NOTICES.

INTERNAL WORKS.

ROOMS :

Damp remedied	....	....	....	12
Stripped, cleansed and redecorated	....	....	....	1
Plaster repaired	....	....	....	52
Floors repaired	....	....	....	7
Windows repaired, renewed or extended	....	....	....	30
Stoves repaired, or renewed	....	....	....	9
Doors, locks, etc.	21
Ventilated Foodstore provided	1

STAIRCASE :

Repairs	8
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SANITARY FITMENTS :

New sinks	3
Coppers provided or repaired	4
Privies abolished	12
Pails abolished	....	....	....	14
W.C.'s provided	....	....	....	19
Pail closets provided	....	....	....	7
W.C.'s repaired	....	....	....	15
Wastewater Pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	2

DRAINS :

Unstopped or repaired	....	....	....	25
New drains	....	....	....	6
Gullies repaired or renewed	....	....	....	3
Cesspools provided or repaired	....	....	....	1
Ditches cleansed	....	....	....	2

WATER SUPPLIES AND FITTINGS :

New services	....	....	....	5
Repaired or renewed	....	....	....	3

EXTERNAL WORKS :

Roofs repaired or renewed	....	....	....	44
Gutters and R.W. pipes repaired or renewed	....	....	....	18
Walls repaired or renewed	....	....	....	13
Yards repaired or paved	....	....	....	8
Dustbins provided	....	....	....	42
Accummulations removed	....	....	....	2

SHOPS :

Heating provided	....	....	....	1
Ventilation provided	....	....	....	1
Washing facilities provided	....	....	....	2

MILK AND DAIRIES :

Yards paved	....	....	....	8
Cleanliness	....	....	....	3
Ventilation	....	....	....	2
New Cowstalls	....	....	....	4
New Dairies	....	....	....	6
Milking Bails	....	....	....	1
Cowstalls reconstructed	....	....	....	5

(d) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was taken during the year.

(e) CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

(f) RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 & 1928.

There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

(g) RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Four complaints of infestation were received during the year, but to satisfy requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries the Council contracted with Messrs. Pestex Ltd., to undertake the survey of the district and treat infested premises on part time basis.

Commencing in August the operator visited the district every fortnight calling at 274 premises. Of these 46 had to receive treatment for Rats or Mice.

The Council's refuse tips and sewage disposal works received regular maintenance treatments, and following a positive test baiting, the Evercreech sewers were treated once with such success that a second test later in the year gave negative result.

(h) INSECT PESTS.

In only one instance was any infestation reported or discovered during the year,

FACTORIES.

1.—INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH :

Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
i. Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	6	—	—
ii. Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies :				
(a) Subject to the Local Au- thorities (Transfer of En- forcement) Order, 1938	—	—	—	—
(b) Others	51	19	5	—
iii. Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' pre- mises)	—	—	—	—
Total	66	25	5	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found.			By H.M. Inspector.	No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.		
Want of cleanliness (S1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	4	4	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	—	—

3.—OUTWORKERS.

There were 43 outworkers in the district all employed in gloving industry by firms outside the district.

HOUSING.

1.—RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

Once again I regret to report that no further progress was made during the year. As the housing situation eases it will be very necessary to have completed this survey in order that the Council might determine its long term building policy. About 14 Parishes remain to be surveyed and under present arrangements, this can only be done as day to day routine work permits.

2.—ACTION UNDER HOUSING ACT, 1936.

There remain in the district many unsatisfactory houses which require to be dealt with as soon as possible. The acute housing shortage prevented statutory action during the year, but informal action succeeded in obtaining the carrying out of essential repairs in many instances.

3.—OVERCROWDING.

Seven cases of overcrowding were abated during the year, but two new cases were reported, and their abatement will depend on the speed by which the housing programme develops.

4.—HOUSING PROGRAMME.

Production of new houses continued at a slow rate, having regard to the number of applicants on the waiting list. Twenty-eight Council houses were completed and occupied during the year. This is an increase on the previous year's figure of fifteen.

A review of the Council's lists of applicants was undertaken on two occasions, one being at the instance of the Ministry of Health and was completed towards the end of the year. The result of this showed 267 applicants, of whom 82 were without homes of their own.

Allowing for the twenty eight houses this figure is 39 less than at the 31st December, 1947. This difference can be accounted for by people omitting to renew their applications. A few have, no doubt, found accommodation for themselves, but the majority, I am certain, are still just waiting.

Total number of applications for Council Houses at the close of the year (In rooms 82)	267
Number of houses erected by the Local Authority during the year	28
Number of houses erected by Private Enterprise during the year	13 Permanent (including 8 Flats obtained by conversion) 2 Temporary
Number of houses in course of erection by Local Authority	32
Number of houses in course of erection by Private Emterprise	5
Number of unfit houses licensed for habitation	27
Number of houses continuing to be requisitioned by the Council	21
Number of houses previously condemned but still occupied	10

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

1.—MILK SUPPLY.

The number of registered dairy premises increased by twenty-five to four hundred and thirty-three, due mainly to new entrants into the liquid milk market. Of these some 183 were licensed to produce designated milks.

Improvements to premises were carried out in an increasing number of instances.

Number of Producers registered	....	....	433
Number of Producer-retailers registered	....	....	48
Number of Retailers (not producers)	....	....	7
Heat treatment plants	....	....	1

DESIGNATED MILK.

Number of Producers T.T. milk	....	....	99
Number of Producers Accredited milk	....	....	84
Number of Retailers T.T. milk	....	....	5
Number of Retailers Pasteurised milk	....	....	Nil.

One licence to produce Accredited Milk was suspended during the year ; one accredited and one T.T. licence were cancelled due to removal out of this district of the herds.

Designated milk sampling was carried out entirely by County Council Officers.

13 samples of milk were examined for tubercle bacilli, 11 of which proved negative, and 2 positive. In one case the affected animal was traced and slaughtered.

2.—ICE CREAM :

No. of premises registered for—				
(a) Manufacture	....	....	....	0
(b) Sale	....	....	....	3

3.—MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. (INSPECTIONS AND CONDEMNATIONS).

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	822	936	4416	5580	121
Number inspected	822	936	4416	5580	121
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS :					
Whole carcasses condemned	33		40	35	10
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	644		18	619	25
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than tubercu- losis	38.50		1.31	11.70	28.92
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned	73		13	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	438		2	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	29.06		.34	—	9.9.

Total weight of diseased/unsound food condemned. 43 Tons 6½ Cwt.

OTHER FOODS SURRENDERED.

22 lbs. cake margarine	....	....	Tainted and rancid.
31 x 6 lb. tins corned beef	....	....	Punctured, decomposing, perforated, blown.
10 x 12 oz. tins corned beef	....	....	Punctured, decomposing, perforated.
5 x 12 lb. tins corned beef	....	....	Punctured, decomposing, perforated.
11 x 4 pt. tins milk	....	....	Damaged, rusty.
6 x 8 oz. tins milk	....	....	Blown, leaky.
1 x 2 pt. tin milk	....	....	Rusted, blown, perforated.

4 x 14½ oz. tins milk	....	....	Rusted, blown, perforated.
3 x 1 lb. 3 oz. tins peas	....	....	Blown, leaky, damp, unsound.
1 x 14 oz. tin peas	....	....	" " " "
1 x 2 lb. tin peas	....	....	" " " "
1 x 16 oz. tin peas	....	....	" " " "
2 x 16½ oz. tin peas	....	....	" " " "
1 x 15½ oz. tin peas	....	....	" " " "
3 x 8 oz. tins beans	....	....	" " " "
4 x 4 oz. cartons Chocolate Spread	....	....	" " " "
3 x 10oz. tins soup	....	....	" " " "
2 x 1 lb. tin soup	....	....	" " " "
1 x 14 oz. tin mussels	....	....	" " " "
1 x 1 lb. tin steak	....	....	" " " "
2 x 1 lb. 4 oz. tin grapefruit	....	....	" " " "
5 x 1 lb. 3 oz. tins tomatoes	....	....	" " " "
2 x 19 oz. tins mixed vegetables	....	....	" " " "
1 x 2 lbs. tin celery cuts	....	....	" " " "
3 x 15 oz. tins hake	....	....	" " " "
1 x 2 lb. tin marmalade	....	....	" " " "
2 x 4½ oz. bottles mustard	....	....	" " " "
6 packets of gravy	....	....	" " " "
1 x 12 oz. tin meat	....	....	" " " "
19 x 3¼ oz. tins herrings	....	....	" " " "
2 x 30 oz. cans grapes	....	....	Blown.
1 x 14 lb. box kippers	....	....	Decomposing.
2 x 3¼ oz. tins brisslings	....	....	Blown, perforated, decomposing, rusted.
1 x 2 lb. tin jam	....	....	" " " "
1 pate fois gras	....	....	" " " "
1 x 1 lb. 13 oz. apple purie	....	....	Perforated, blown, mouldy.
1 tin plums	....	....	" " "
1 x 5½ oz. tin horseradish	....	....	" " "
1 x 7 oz. tin sauce	....	....	" " "
1 tin vegetable soup	....	....	" " "
3 x 1 lb. 12 oz. tins apricots	....	....	" " "
1 x 12 oz. tin minced beef loaf	....	....	Blown.
1 x 7 oz. tin whiting	....	....	"
14 lbs. ox liver	....	....	In state of decomposition.
8½ lbs. fish	....	....	Tainted.
15 lbs. bacon	....	....	Decomposing and infested with maggots.
558½ lbs. beef	....	....	Tainted, suggestion of drenching, bruised (internal).

The figures quoted are generally similar to those for 1947, and have entailed considerable inspectorial time.

4. SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

Number of Registered Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	Nil.
Number of Licensed Slaughterhouses	....	....	....	4
Number of Slaughterhouses in use under Ministry of Food	....	....	....	1
Licensed Knackers Yard	....	....	....	1

No further improvements were carried out during 1948 to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse at Pylle, and conditions under which meat inspection had to be carried out remained decidedly unsatisfactory.

5.—SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

A register of all licensed slaughtermen, pursuant to Section 3 (1) of the above mentioned Act, is kept, and the number so licensed is 14.

I have the honour to be, Lady Sheelah and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

Medical Officer of Health.